



“CREATING ADVENTURES FOR OTHERS MAKES ME HAPPY”

A traveler and a well-being lifestyle supporter, Evgheni Shaposhnikov organizes active games and adventure quests worldwide. In an interview to OnAir, he comments on what it takes to live a happy life, why people like adventures and why it's not good to travel just for the sake of taking some rest.

Evgheniya Valoshyna

What is your notion of a healthy well-being?

Well, that's a standard number of things: life in motion, healthy food, and no bad habits that can take control over your body. I can't stand a day without at least 5-km walk, and I can't fall asleep with windows shut. Also, I think that a day passes with no meaning, if I don't get some new information or I don't hear "thank you" from a stranger.

You are known for a quest when you hide boxes with money across Minsk. Is that some kind of charity?

I'd say this is more a motivation for a healthier lifestyle. These are not big amounts of cash; so it's not about charity. I believe this is a good chance for people to search for the boxes on foot or when riding a bike. That quest has become quite popular, indeed. In my social media groups, people are sharing their stories like someone once rode 50 kilometers and turned back 200 meters close to the box. Many families play together; they usually say that they didn't find money but at least had a walk with their children and discovered many unusual places in the city.





In 2001, you were one of the first participants of the Skhvatka (a real-life night city puzzlehunt – OnAir). Why is it still popular?

Fifteen years ago, when everything started, there were 6-8 teams. Now the game features 23 countries, 300 cities and hundreds of thousands participants. Just because this all is about real-life and real-time drive. You appear the main hero of an adventurous thriller. By car, you explore a night city with a team of like-minded crazy mates, visit abandoned landmarks or popular tourist sites and this all is flavored with puzzles to solve, creative tasks and even physical exercises. Besides, now the game is in line with modern technology, what you need is just a smartphone and a web access.

How did you come to the idea of scaling your hobbies worldwide?

Once together with my mates we decided that it was time to share our hobby and we went to Europe. At that time, we didn't think of that like of a business; we just wanted to organize quests for local youngsters in various locations. We organized some quests in Vilnius and Berlin; then, in Warsaw, Prague, and Wien, we found local drivers. That was how our hobby transformed into business and work. Though, even when our quests involve thousands of participants, we don't

feel like we are at work. We just found our place and that makes us happy.

What is takes to prepare a quest?

Everything starts with an idea for some activity; like let's make a policeman stop every car and hide a code to the puzzle in the driver's documents he checks. Then we try to find a suitable place to implement the idea. It can be a lake to dive, or some abandoned bunker. Some failures occur, of course. With the policeman there was a case when one team saw our policeman and stopped in a forest just because they didn't have documents and were afraid of penalties. Only a hint that the policeman was not real helped them to go through that task.

Seems your life is just one long quest!

Perhaps, this is my self-identification. I wouldn't say my life is full of original adventures but I'm not sure I need them. I know how to create adventures for other people and this is enough to be happy.

But you're also keen on travelling, right?

To be honest, I don't like traveling for the sake of having some rest or getting new impressions. There were many

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ГОНКА ЛЕГЕНД

18 СЕНТЯБРЯ
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начало
10.00



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САНДРИН БЭЙЛИ ИЛЬМАР БРИЦИС и другие



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 EKATERINA DAFOVSKA CORINNE NIOGRET
CHRISTOPH SUMANN MARTINA "MOLLY" BECK
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"I WANT TO WRITE A FANTASTIC OR POST-APOCALYPTICAL BOOK ABOUT OUR CITY. THEN, TO IMPLEMENT AN UNUSUAL GAMIFICATION TECHNIQUE OF TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES TO KIDS. THEN, I WANT TO PREPARE A SERIES OF ARTICLES DEVOTED TO EXPLORING THE WORLD BY CAR. I WANT TO PLANT OAK GROVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY; I'VE PLANTED ALREADY A COUPLE, FROM THE ACORNS I BROUGHT FROM MY TRIPS. I HAVE A MILLION OTHER IDEAS I HAVEN'T STARTED IMPLEMENTING YET. IT'S POSSIBLE TO HAVE TIME FOR EVERYTHING, REALLY. IT'S SIMPLE. I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING IF I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THAT. I HAVE NO TV SET AND I DON'T WATCH TV SHOWS. I DON'T USE COMPUTER FOR ONLINE GAMES – THIS GIVES ME 2-3 HOURS DAILY. AND WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT, I HAVE SOME INNER MOTIVATION THAT MAKES ME DO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL. MEANINGFUL NOT ONLY FOR ME".

times when I stopped just after realizing that my trip would not bring any use to anyone except me. I prefer meaningful trips. A good trip for me is the one, when I'm capable to hide some money boxes, or to think about a quest for local people, or write a report to my website, or explore Local anomalies.

Anomalies? You mean some UFO expeditions?

Yep. This story fascinates me much, I believe, since I first read Sci-Fi books at school. Time passed, my schoolmates grew up and started to understand that dreams about alien worlds were just dreams, but I'm still searching for my flying saucer, with a team of like-minded people. Our approach is scientific and rather skeptical; you wouldn't get our attention with the stories about some monsters. We have consultants in the world of applied science and what we want is to clear





facts from fantasies and legends. For example, we're exploring the evidences of the flying fire ball that crossed the territory of Belarus in 1991. Every year we find more and more people who saw it. These are people from dozens of villages that are located in one line. People still remember all the details since that occasion was rather worrying and unexpected. Local media reported some rubbish things and we'd want to restore the real picture.

What is your favorite place on the planet?

Well, some time ago I spent a month in Switzerland where I prepared a series of travel reports. This is my perfect place. All those wonderful Alpine meadows with glacier mountain streams; all those narrow valleys with the sound of cow bells; and the smell of untouched nature... I also understood that the country fascinates me not only with nature, but with happy people too. No matter if they are farmers or track drivers, they know they do what they like to do, and that is the source of happiness for them.

What are your plans?

To go to the countries I've never been to. My old dream is to take the route of the Captain Grant's children from the "In Search of the Castaways", followed by the motobike's trip across Australia. My plans include European capital cities, then USA, then China. I want to go to Belgium to taste their beers, I

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want to go to the seaside to try windsurfing. Also, I want to go to Mongolia, where there are many anomalies to explore. The major thing here is to have a good company of friends who'd follow and support you, and share your excitement.

СОФТЕКО

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1  *file object*)
2
3  @property.setter def __set__(self, value):
4      setattr(self, value)
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6      if isinstance(value, dict):
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8          for key, value in value.items():
9              setattr(self, key, value)
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11      if isinstance(value, list):
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14      // We do IT best
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